

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are presented for examination. Claims 1-6 are currently amended. Claims 9-29 are new.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Perkowski (Pat. No. 6,625581 B1). The Perkowski reference teaches a system for permitting consumers to tab into a retail database to access retail and consumer information relating to completed produced. For example, the information relates to scheduled shipping dates, product recalls, software updates, etc.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to more clearly recite that the present invention provides information on the individual sub-components that make up a product. This is clearly not taught or suggested by the prior art, which is purely interested with the delivery and maintenance of full products.

Providing information on the progress of individual sub-components of a whole product is important since the present invention further provides information on the incremental progress of a multi-stage construction operation, as is recited in amended claims 2 and 5. Again, providing information on the incremental construction, i.e. information on the construction of individual sub-components, is not taught or suggested by the cite prior art, which is interested only on information relating to completed, whole products.

Amended claims 3 and 6 further clarify that the present invention, depending on the identification of the user of said remote terminal, permits the remote terminal either to only view product information management data, or permitted to view and to submit design changes to the specified product and its sub-components, or to view data and submit design changes only to data previously submitted by the identified user. The cited prior art teaches only the viewing of data, and do not teach or suggest the submitting of design changes (conditional or non-conditional) to the products in their database. This is also the subject of new independent claim 28.

New claims 9-13 provide additional aspects of the present invention to the method of claim 4, and new claims 14-18 provide similar additional aspects of the Customer No. 20178
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present invention to the apparatus of claim 1. For example, claims 9 and 14 explain that the product may be technical design drawing and the sub-components may be a plurality of other sub-drawings (i.e. more detailed views of sub-components within the main top-level drawing). Again, this is not taught nor suggested by the prior art.

New claims 11 and 16 recite the display of a pictorial timeline of completed tasks and tasks scheduled for completion.

New claims 12-13 provide additional details regarding the types of supplied information. This is also the subject of new independent claim 27 and new claim 29, which depends from independent claim 28.

New claims and 17-18 provide additional details regarding how design changes are accepted and incorporated into the product information management data.

New claims 19-22 recite an apparatus reciting additional features of the present invention, and new claims 23-26 recite a method of implementing features similar to those of claims 19-22.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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